CHAPTER XXI

ORIGIN OF THE "SAN MIN CHU I"

THE *San Min Chu I,* the political Gospel of the Kuomintang, and, indeed, of all China, since that Party gained the ascendancy, was prepared by Dr. Sun Yat-sen in 1924.- The translation of the title in general usage is "The Three Principles of the People[1]' or "The People's Three Principles/' though a Jesuit translator, Father D'Elia, invented the name "Triple Demism." Some years previously Dr. Sun had published an English edition of his "The International Development of China," in which he advocated grandiose projects financed with foreign capital. He appears to have been engaged upon the preparation of what he intended to be his political *magnum opus* in 1922, when he was driven out of Canton by Chen Chiung-ming's revolt, and his manuscripts and library were destroyed. He himself professes to have based his Three Principles upon Lincoln's Gettysburg speech and the French revolutionary slogan, "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity/* During his periods of exile abroad he had had opportunities of studying at close quarters various foreign political systems, and he was convinced that he had, in what he called his "Three Principles" and his "Five Power Constitution" evolved a novel political system, which would prove to be China's salvation*

The actual text of the *San Min Chu I* was never